

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract by rewriting same to read as follows.

A lens barrier mechanism ~~comprising~~ includes: a lens tube; a lens barrier rotated in a direction orthogonal to an optical axis of an image pickup lens exposed outward from a front part of the lens tube for opening/closing the front part of the lens tube; a first energizing member for rotationally energizing the lens barrier; a slider engaged with the lens barrier and sliding in the direction of the optical axis of the image pickup lens, thus regulating rotation of the lens barrier; a second energizing member for energizing the slider so as to rotate the lens barrier in a direction opposite to the energizing direction of the first energizing member; and a sliding mechanism for moving the slider.